



Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

15. (New) A medicine envelope feeder comprising:

a support member for supporting one face of a medicine envelope storing injection medicine containers so that an upper end portion of the medicine envelope can be bent over an upper end of the support member;

a vertically movable holding member comprising a guide part for guiding an opposite face of the medicine envelope, and a pressing part which is vertically movable along the guide part and can be lowered for pressing the folded upper end of the medicine envelope against the support member,

wherein at least a coefficient of friction of the pressing part is larger than that of the support member, so that only the medicine envelope can be raised while being held between the guide part and the pressing part when the holding member is raised.

16. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 15, wherein a part of the support member held between the guide part and the pressing part of the holding member is a rotating piece that is rotatable about one end portion thereof.

17. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 15, wherein the support member is mounted so as to be pivotable about a lower end part thereof, and the support member comprises medicine envelope detection means for detecting that the medicine envelope has been fed, drive means for driving the support member upon the medicine envelope detection means detecting the medicine envelope, and rotating position detecting means for detecting that the support member is rotated in a state where the medicine envelope is held between the support member and the guide part of the holding member.

18. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 15, wherein the holding member is capable of moving in a horizontal direction, and comprises a rotatable contact piece which is brought into contact with one surface of the medicine envelope as the holding member moves in the horizontal direction when the held medicine envelope is fed to a bucket.

19. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 15, wherein a lower end portion of the guide part of the holding member comprises an inclined face which is inclined away from the pressing part toward a lower side of the holding member so that the held medicine envelope can be inclined with a folded side facing down by moving the pressing part along the inclined face of the guide part.

20. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 18, wherein the holding member further comprises an elastic pressing piece for pressing an upper folded side of the medicine envelope after retaining the medicine envelope on a bottom surface of the bucket with the contact piece.

21. (New) A medicine envelope feeder comprising:
a support member for supporting one face of a medicine envelope storing injection medicine containers such that a portion of the medicine envelope from an upper end opening part of the medicine envelope can be bent over an upper end of the support member;
a vertically movable holding member including a pair of nip arms that are supported in a rotatable manner and have nip rollers at respective ends thereof for bending the medicine envelope with one of the nip rollers as the holding member is moved in a horizontal direction and for holding the medicine envelope in a twofold state by lowering the nip rollers so that the nip rollers are positioned on both sides of the support member,
wherein at least a coefficient of friction of the nip rollers is larger than that of the support member, so that only the medicine envelope can be raised while being held between the nip rollers when the holding member is raised.

22. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 21, wherein a rotating angle of the nip arms in the holding member can be changed according to conditions of the medicine envelope.

23. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 16, wherein the support member is mounted so as to be pivotable about a lower end part thereof, and the support member comprises medicine envelope detection means for detecting that the medicine envelope has been fed, drive means for driving the support member upon the medicine envelope detection means detecting the medicine envelope, and rotating position detecting means for detecting that the support member is rotated in a state where the medicine envelope is held between the support member and the guide part of the holding member.

24. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 16, wherein the holding member is capable of moving in a horizontal direction, and comprises a rotatable contact piece that is brought into contact with one surface of the medicine envelope as the holding member moves in the horizontal direction when the held medicine envelope is fed to a bucket.

25. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 17, wherein the holding member is capable of moving in a horizontal direction, and comprises a rotatable contact piece that is brought into contact with one surface of the medicine envelope as the holding member moves in the horizontal direction when the held medicine envelope is fed to a bucket.

26. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 16, wherein a lower end portion of the guide part of the holding member comprises an inclined face that is gradually inclined away from the pressing part toward a lower end of the guide part so that, by moving the pressing part along the inclined face of the guide part, the held medicine envelope can be inclined with a folded side facing down.

27. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 17, wherein a lower end portion of the guide part of the holding member comprises an inclined face that is gradually inclined away from the pressing part toward a lower end of the guide part so that, by moving the pressing part along the inclined face of the guide part, the held medicine envelope can be inclined with a folded side facing down.

28. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 18, wherein a lower end portion of the guide part of the holding member comprises an inclined face that is gradually inclined away from the pressing part toward a lower end of the guide part so that, by moving the pressing part along the inclined face of the guide part, the held medicine envelope can be inclined with a folded side facing down.

29. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 15, wherein the support member is movable between an inclined envelope reception position and a vertical envelope delivery position.

30. (New) The medicine envelope feeder as defined in Claim 21, wherein the support member is movable between an inclined envelope reception position and a vertical envelope delivery position.